

# MATWATCH

213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn Al 36830

NOVEMBER 13-19

VOL. 2, NO. 21

## THE AWARDS: YOU MAKE THE CALL

Candidly, I view many awards competitions, from the Emmys (where my favorites never win) to the AP Top 25 in college football (whose champion is an act of mythology) as hollow.



Steve  
Beverly

They prove little more than popularity. They create conversation, controversy and an open voice to consumers; hence, the second annual MATWATCH TV AWARDS, for which ballots have been provided in the most recent two issues.

Let us correct one glaring oversight: in the BEST OF... ballot, the eminent name of JESSE VENTURA was inadvertently omitted

from the OUTSTANDING TV PERSONALITY nominees. Please add him to the list---NOW!

We add one new category this year: BEST SINGLE PERFORMANCE. Several individual presentations merit special recognition, from strong announcer calls to top angle performances.

We continue our policy not to direct how you should vote. After the ballots are in and counted for the 1989 MATWATCH ANNUAL, I will list my personal choices in the Christmas/New Year double issue of MATWATCH. What we provide you with is a list of nominees---which I will be first to admit is not exhaustive. We have tried to review tapes, issues of MATWATCH and other newsletters to evaluate U.S. and Canadian performances most worthy of consideration. However, we're human and may have overlooked an obvious choice or two, as well as one of your favorites. So, the door is wide open for you to write in choices in any categories. Just remember to do so in the rank order you would rate performances.

In the category of OUTSTANDING TV PERSONALITY, don't vote for the wrestler with the best workrate. Choose the people you feel have demonstrated the best ability to sell and present themselves in an entertaining fashion and done the most to enhance his or her character and/or promotion.

In some instances, we list nominees in both BEST and WORST OF... ballots, based on polarized fan reactions (Zeus, Widowmaker, i.e.) to their portrayals.

We learned last year that even the most one-sided majorities can breed controversy. The 1988 PLAY-BY-PLAY ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR, Jim Ross, drew the largest number of points of any nominee but we similarly heard after the results from less-than-pleased Marc Lowrance fans who felt he didn't get a fair shake in the polling.

In today's era of national promotions, the awards have one built-in disadvantage: the WWF, NWA, AWA and---to a lesser degree---USWA have the bulk of continental exposure (as would Stampede in Canada). Don Owen's Portland promotion offered some outstanding programs this year but is only seen on one TV station; therefore, videotape traders will have to vote heavily to reflect the quality of the Portland efforts. Likewise, SCW, CWP, ICW, CWA and Florida's PWF are all seen on fewer than a dozen stations, which sorely limits the strength of how their performances can be reflected in a readers' poll.

My personal judgments are often tougher on larger promotions for one reason: we should expect a higher-quality product with their money, exposure and marquee value. When that product doesn't deliver, it is worse to me than hard-trying independents which lack the glitz and money for broad showcasing.



I have ambivalent feelings about WORST OF... categories in any creative endeavor. These people work hard and I would be incapable of matching even the worst of most of these performances. Yet, I am first and foremost a fan---and if fans cannot express their dislikes to promotions, promotions never learn. Even worse are those which never listen.

Above all, accept these awards for what they are: just plain fun. They won't bring world peace. They aren't scientific: newsletter readers make up less than one percent of the wrestling populous, nor do they reflect the current fan demographics. So, simply enjoy. Make your voice heard, squabble over the results and take the 1989 MATWATCH ANNUAL: THE DECADE THAT CHANGED IT ALL for what we hope will be entertaining hours of reading.

## THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

ARGENTINE CAGER TO NWA;  
EL GIGANTE: ANDRE '90?

ATLANTA --- An Atlanta newspaper has broken a wall of secrecy in Turner Broadcasting headquarters.

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution reported Nov. 9 of the signing of Jorge Gonzalez, 7-foot-6 center of the Argentine national basketball team, to a three-year contract with World Championship Wrestling, Inc.

Gonzalez, a third-round draft pick of the Atlanta Hawks, is said not to possess NBA-quality talent. The report, by writer Jeff Denberg, revealed Gonzalez working on ring techniques in Tampa, where the Gainesville Sun reports he is being

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## THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

(Continued from Page 1)

trained by ex-NWA great Hiro Matsuda.

Sources say Gonzalez will be called EL GIGANTE if and when he premieres on an NWA card.

TBS officials are under a gag order concerning Gonzalez and will not acknowledge he is under contract to the wrestling company. Hawks president Stan Kasten offered no comment when quizzed about Gonzalez.



Jorge Gonzalez

At 23, Gonzalez is reportedly in a 90-day training program to determine his ring skills, potentially leading to a 1990s version of Andre the Giant. He was signed five weeks ago and newspaper reports say he has dropped from 400 pounds to 380 in his early training.

In the Atlanta story, Denberg wrote: "Coming to the U.S. to see the Hawks play apparently did not have the desired effect on Gonzalez. The Hawks hoped he would be a better player. Instead, Gonzalez may have come to the conclusion he's not an NBA player."

If Gonzalez succeeds, he will be introduced as El Gigante at a Turner news conference and debut at either CLASH X Feb. 6 or WRESTLE WAR '90 Feb. 25.

## TULLY BLANCHARD FIRED FROM WWF BEFORE SURVIVORS

STAMFORD CT --- Tully Blanchard, jumping a WWF contract to rejoin the NWA in December, has been fired from Titan Sports before his SURVIVOR SERIES finale.

Sources say Blanchard was dumped for refusing to do a job for Ultimate Warrior on the USA Network COUNTDOWN TO SURVIVOR SERIES special Sunday and Monday.

No replacement had been named at deadline for Blanchard on the Heenan Family SURVIVOR team which includes departing partner Arn Anderson. Blanchard and Anderson were both scheduled for estimated \$5,000 payoffs for the SURVIVORS performance.

## PINFALL PROFILE

The rumor mill is often one of the most delicate categories through which one must sift. Try as we may to avoid reporting items strictly on rumor, occasionally one does not get filtered. Class example: last fall, we had usually impeccable sources telling us Lex Luger had jumped the NWA for Japan after Lex had missed a couple of dates. We were wrong and had to embarrassingly say so.

We try hard to learn from mistakes of that nature. Over the past weekend, we were left phone messages from multiple callers on two subjects---one of which turned out to be true, the other quite exaggerated.

I have to admit to a heartrate increase when at least four sources told me of a story that Bill Watts was indeed headed into the NWA as booker and executive. Further, I learned (accurately) that several NWA wrestlers had been told the same story the afternoon of Nov. 5.

I have taken some shots from readers for not reporting enough "underground" information and, likewise, have been hammered when I have been able to quote promotion executives directly on their companies. But if I am to "draw heat," I will do it every time on the side of getting info from the "horse's mouths" inside promotional headquarters. If I later discover that they lie, I'll say so. One who has not deceived us even once has been NWA senior vice president Jim Herd. He'll say he can't comment rather than lie, as is the case with executives in many fields. Said Herd: "Logic should tell you when I am under a commission from Turner Broadcasting to hold down blood and violence on the air, I'm not going out to hire a Bill Watts, even though I have tremendous respect for Watts personally and for what he's done for wrestling." Rumor I laid to rest. Part of the explosion came from word that a former NWA wrestler had told an independent promoter he could not work for the indie because he was "going back to the NWA in January because Bill Watts is going to be booker." But it is not to be: Rumor I laid to rest.

Rumor II does have validity. For weeks, I had heard reports of a rift between NWA booker Ric Flair and his former boss and friend, Jim Crockett. As the story goes, Crockett has grown increasingly critical of the job Flair has done as creative head and while the former NWA chief is virtually powerless in the corporation today, he is still voicing strong opinions on the promotion.

A highly-placed source in the NWA told me without qualification: "This is on the record. You'd be correct to say the relationship has not been the same between Flair and Crockett. A lot of it stems from critiques of the recent shows Crockett has been sending to Jack Petrik (WCW president). They have not been very complimentary toward Flair." Insiders say Crockett, whose family still owns a 35 percent share of the NWA, privately would still like to play an active role in the organization and would not hesitate to portray Flair as the heavy in an effort to do so.

I don't know what's in those Crockett critiques and some of it may be on target. However, it is another class example (and Titan has some of the same bickering, though on a lesser scale) of how infighting continues at a fever pace in the NWA, some of which has stifled its resurgence as a major player. But it's a situation people in a place to know say is no rumor.

## MATWATCH 1989 ANNUAL

Orders are now being taken for the MATWATCH 1989 ANNUAL: THE DECADE THAT CHANGED IT ALL. Prices: \$10 for U.S. and Canada, \$18 overseas. Orders must be in by Dec. 18 to alert local printers. This year, a gift annual will earn you 3 free issues of MATWATCH. Check, cash or money order to: STEVE BEVERLY, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830. Please specify it's an annual order.

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RATING SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

NOTE: No PORTLAND or AWA shows this week.

(STAMPEDE/TSN) - [2 Wks. Ago]: Biff Wellington d. Dr. Zhivago; Angel of Death d. Steve Gillespie; Arcangel (Curtis Thompson) d. Jason Thompson; Sumohara d. Goldie Rogers; Larry Cameron d. Ken Johnson; Davey Boy Smith d. Skull Mason. RESTHOLD.  
[Last Week]: Matt & Brett Derringer d. Johnson/Gillespie; Arcangel d. Wellington; Rogers upsets Zhivago; Great Gama double countout vs. Sumohara; Bruce Hart wins DQ over Angel of Death. Angel works over Bruce after until Owen Hart saves. ANGLES: 1) Derringers doubleteam & injure Bruce (not aired on TSN); 2) Owen, Cameron get into verbal confrontation at interview area. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(USWA) - TEXAS TITLE: Kerry Von Erich d. Punisher; Eric Embry d. B.J. Travis; From MEMPHIS: Buddy Landell d. Freezer Thompson; Gary Young wins DQ over Bill Dundee when Bill is caught with a chain; SEGMENT: Matt Borne swears revenge on Devastation, Inc. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(GA. ALL-STAR) - Mr. Atlanta d. Mr. Wrestling II by DQ; Chic Donovan d. John Powers; Jimmy Powell d. Joel Deaton; Randy Rose wins DQ over Dustin Rhodes. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Danny Spivey d. Bob Emery; Steiner Bros. d. Danny Marlowe/Gene Spurlock; Brian Pillman d. Cuban Assassin; Freebirds d. Mike Justice/Tommy Angel; Tommy Rich d. Norman when Tommy hands Norm his teddy bear & Norm lays down for the pin; Ric Flair d. Agent Steel. PEDICINO'S NOSE: CLASH IX Preview. RESTHOLD-PLUS.  
[NWA PRO]: DOOM d. Lee Scott/Trent Knight; Dynamic Dudes d. George South/Joe Cruz; Tom Zenk d. Pat Rose; 6-MAN: Samoan 3 d. Gene Ligon/Bill Ford/Larry Santo; Pillman wins DQ over Jimmy Garvin. RESTHOLD.  
[MAIN EVENT]: DOOM d. Alex Porteau/Rude Dog; 4-CORNERS MATCH/Pillman d. Eddie Gilbert in final; Pillman d. Mike Rotunda when Luger runs in and the 2 pummel Brian before Sting/Flair save. DRAW-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: DOOM d. Richard Sertain/Italian Stallion; From WWW: Rich d. Norman; U.S. TITLE: Lex Luger double DQ vs. Dick Murdoch when both shove Nick Patrick; WWW: Gordon Solie predicts Terry Funk will win "I QUIT" match at CLASH IX; FUNK'S GRILL: Solie guests but says he "hopes" Flair wins "I QUIT." RESTHOLD.  
[MAIN EVENT]: Midnight Express d. Gilbert/Rich; From NWA PRO: Pillman wins DQ over Garvin. DRAW.  
[WCW]: HANDICAP: DOOM Simmons d. Larry Santo/Tommy Angel; Steiners d. William Bell/Fred Avery; Sting/Pillman d. State Patrol; Flair d. Lee Scott; Zenk d. Lou Taffilloni; SST d. Agent Steel/Spurlock; Steve Williams d. Sid Vicious by DQ when Spivey runs in & Doc nearly fends both off before Norman comes to Steve's aid; Samoan Savage d. Richard Sertain; Midnight Express d. George South/Pat Rose; NWA TV TITLE: Muta d. Italian Stallion. RETROSPECTIVE: Dudes-Midnights-Cornette storyline. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

## TV TEMPO

Week of  
Nov. 6-12

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: WWF TAG TITLE: Demolition d. Tully Blanchard/Arn Anderson to regain belts; Lanny Poffo d. Jim MacPherson; Rockers d. Alan Reynolds/Barry Hardy; Bad News Brown d. Chuck Casey; Jim Neidhart d. Brooklyn Brawler; Dino Bravo d. Dale Wolfe; Jim Duggan d. Barry Horowitz; BRO. LUV w. King's Court showdown w. 4x4s; Curt Hennig d. Bret Hart by holding trunks on cradle. DRAW-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Tito Santana d. Honky Tonk Man; Greg Valentine d. Reno Riggins; Sheepwhackers d. Scarberry & Arnold; Barry Widowmaker d. Mark Regan; Rockers d. Reynolds & Hardy; Powers of Pain d. Dusty Woods/Casey. RESTHOLD-PLUS.  
[SUPERSTARS]: Roddy Piper d. Brawler; Hennig d. Woods; Whackers d. Bob Emery/Craig Brown; Ted DiBiase d. Trent Knight; Snuka wins squash; BRO. LUV w. Andre/Haku/Heenan; STRENGTH SHOWDOWN: Dino Bravo does pushups w. "fan" John Tenta on his back but when Ultimate Warrior comes out for more of the same, Tenta crashes on his back & he & Bravo double on Warrior. BOMB-PLUS.

(CWA) - Sean Regal d. Kevin Dillinger; Tony Anthony d. Tim Hall; Soultaker d. Big O; ARENA: Jeff Jarrett/Big O d. Wildside; UNIFIED "WORLD" TITLE: Soultaker d. Jerry Lawler for belt; New York Brawler (debut) d. Don Kelly; The Violator (debut) d. Dustin Rhodes. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(LUCHA LIBRE/WIN) - [2 Wks. Ago]: Bobby Bradley/Lazertron d. Banrai/Wino Asesino; Superstar/Superboy d. Carlos Vega/El Chicano; Mercurio d. Chacal Rivera; Piloto Suicida d. El Salvaje; Capitan Oro/Ultraman II d. Ari Romero/Principe Indu; Mando & Eddy Guerrero d. Crazy #33/Acero Dorado. DRAW.  
[Last Week]: Beethoven/Rampalago d. Torbellino Blanco & Asesino; Crazy #33/El Chicano d. Bradley/Mr. Pepto; Rivera & Vega d. Superstar/Tim Taltree; Romero d. Oro; Ultraman d. Indu on reverse decision when after Indu pinned Ultra & then removed his mask, an automatic DQ in Lucha; Super Muneco & Blue Demon Jr. d. Dorado/Rickky Boy. DRAW.

(PWF) - Bounty Hunter d. Rock Hard Rick; Kendall Windham vs. Rowdy Roberts no contest when Kendall knocks out the ref with a chair, then clobbers the save-attempting Mike Graham with a DDT on the chair (Graham juices); Mike Awesome d. El Cid; Billy Jack Haynes d. Tank Morgan; Lou Perez/Brickhouse Brown d. Dennis Knight/Jumbo Baretta by countout; Tyree Pride d. Snake Morgan. LADIES POINT OF VIEW: Awesome; VIDEO: Haynes workout at Harry Smith's Gym. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(CWF) - Southern Boys d. Mad Max/The Panther; Brickhouse Brown d. Gladiator; 6-MAN: Robert Fuller/Brian Lee/Cactus Jack Manson d. Dean Ho/Chief Little Lyn/Jerry Stubbs; Brad Armstrong d. Dennis Condrey by DQ when Condrey decks the ref, then gives Brad a DDT on a chair (which Brad had

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already done the same to Dennis) and both heavily juice.  
ANGLE: Fuller gives Brickhouse cash to rejoin STUD STABLE  
and Brown says yes but isn't crazy about working for  
Downtown Bruno. RESTHOLD.

## LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Jim Cornette, PH, on WOMAN: "If looks could kill, she'd make the Black Plague look like a bad cold." 2. Michael Hayes, WCW, on Tommy Rich: "He's got 30 stitches in his ear & a whole big hurricane of wind blowing through both of 'em." 3. Roddy Piper, PTW, to Bobby Heenan: "The Rockers are listening to rock & roll & you, Boobsie, are still blowing bubbles with Lawrence Welk." 4. Piper, WWF: "I'm the Bo Jackson of the WWF." 5. Gorilla Monsoon & Heenan, PTW: (GM) "Piper's got a dish." (BH) "I've seen her. She's a meatgrinder." 6. Piper, PTW: "At least I get a date and it's not a raisin." 7. Charlie Platt, CWF, on Downtown Bruno: "If everyone can wait 'til the count of 3, let's all laugh together." 8. WOMAN, WCW: "Only little girls are made of sugar and spice." 9. Chris Cruise, WWW, on Norman's hat: "He's wrestling's answer to Minnie Pearl." 10. Cornette & Jim Ross, PH: (JC) "Wouldn't you like to see Luger in basic training?" (JR) "He'd never stand still for the haircut."

11. Gene Okerlund & Jesse Ventura, WWF: (GO) "Jimmy Hart, you can't weigh more than 140 pounds." (JV) "Yeah, but he has at least 50 pounds in money on him." 12. Jake Roberts, WWF, on DiBiase: "A crying child needs attention. But I get to attend to you." 13. Matt Borne, USWA: "You start playing with fire; I start shooting my machine guns." 14. Jesse & Vince McMahon, WWF: (JV) "I understand there are many more cousins (of the Sheepwackers) at home." (V Mc) "And they ('Wackers) are the normal ones." 15. Rev. Billy C. Wirtz and Diamond Dallas Page, PWF: (BCW) "Who's that referee? (DDP) "Oh, that's Wayne Coulter. He trained the refs in Florida." 16. Piper, WWF: "My boys are biting truck tires right now."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Monsoon, PTW: "Bad News doesn't like anybody. What do you expect? He's from Harlem." 2. Gordon Solie, PH: "Terry Funk has too much heritage, too much background to ever say I QUIT but I hope I'm wrong." 3. Platt, CWF, to Bruno: "I don't think anything is your business other than breathing precious air others should have."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Cornette, PH, on visiting a ripoff Disney World in Gainesville, Ga.: "Is that why a ferris wheel was on a pickup truck & Snow White was wearing a miniskirt and had on too much makeup?" 2. McMahon, WWF: "How can a Genius be stupid?"

NICKNAME OF THE WEEK - "The Immoral Minority" (Jesse Ventura on himself).

BEST PICTURES - 1. TBS, Sid Vicious & Steve Williams nose to nose. 2. TBS, closeup of Norman clutching teddy bear. 3. WWF, Piper in Brawler's cap. 4. TBS, Norman/Teddy Long

arguing. 5. WWF, Terry Taylor with arm around Dusty in SURVIVORS interview. (Quite a contrast from the UWF/NWA wars). 6. USA, Jim Neidhart biting Brooklyn Brawler. 7. TBS, Norman picking his nose. 8. USWA, Billy Travis trying to snatch sign from female fan.

BEST AUDIO - TBS/PH, Teddy Long giving Norman instructions.

BEST IMPERSONATION - Lance Russell, NWA PRO, "Oh, yehhhh!" during billboard for TWIX candy bar.

ENGLISH LESSON - Ross, PH, to Cornette: "You must have WENT through a ripoff."

REVISIONIST HISTORY - Hayes, WCW: "George South has scored many great upsets in his career."

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Heenan, PTW: "The Bushwashers." 2. Cornette, PH, for plugging Freebirds as guests on PUNK'S GRILL when Gordon Solie appeared instead. 3. Page, PWF: "Tonight in Nassau: AL Perez goes against Ron Slinker," instead of LOU Perez.

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - TBS, for fading out of Midnight Express match on WCW into CHRYSLER COLLEGE SCOREBOARD before the finish, which we never saw.

BOO AWARD - USWA, for the continuing female abuse angles on TONI ADAMS. As Jeff Bowdren wrote recently in THE WRESTLING OBSERVER, one wonders what kind of minds continues to develop these ideas.

## TUBE TALK

Wayne Coulter actually did referee the remainder of the PWF matches Saturday after the Kendall Windham ref bump angle....Sad part about the angle is there was virtually no heat on Mike Graham being bashed....Dr. Death-Vicious was nothing more than a brawl but there was a lot of heat on that match and it was great prelude to a series between those two, much like the Williams-Terry Gordy affairs....You may have found the Bravo-Tenta-Warrior angle entertaining but it seemed like an end sweep in football that was too slow in developing.

Is it me or do Bravo's head vs. body proportions look as unnatural as Don Muraco's once did?....We will cover both the COUNTDOWN TO CLASH Sunday night show and NEW YORK KNOCKOUTS in next week's edition....For a sweeps week, there was a much shorter supply of good one-liners on all the shows....Terry "Beauty" Garvin apparently set to join Marc Lowrance for a bit at the USWA mike. I have a feeling that will get old....YOU SAID IT! next week in MATWATCH.

Except for the exaggeration of George South's success, I certainly enjoyed Michael Hayes back on WCW. They never should have removed him as regular color man....A quick reminder: Freebirds-Steiners for the NWA tag titles next Saturday on WCW....Also, AWA makes a one-week return to ESPN at Midnight (EST) Saturday, then is pre-empted for at least two more weeks....It'll be curious how SNME is edited to explain Tully's absence at SURVIVORS but sudden return for his and Arn's finale two nights later. PSB.



## MATWATCH TV AWARDS (WORST OF....)

**RULES:** Vote for three in each category unless otherwise noted in the RANK ORDER of your choices. Points will be awarded on a 5-3-1 basis. A list of suggested nominees is included but feel free to write in any alternate choice in all three slots. Balloting covers events or personalities during the period from Dec. 1, 1988-Nov. 30, 1989. Ballots must be received by Dec. 15 for inclusion in the 1989 MATWATCH ANNUAL. A drawing will be held for three winners: the first name receives a free 7-issue set of MATWATCH, the second name a 5-issue set and the third name, 3 free issues. Balloting covers U.S. and Canada wrestling exclusively.

### WORST BROADCAST/CABLE TV MATCH

Paul Jones vs. Ivan Koloff, CLASH IV  
Steve Williams vs. Italian Stallion, CLASH IV  
Dingdongs vs. Skyscrapers, NWA PRO  
Scott Norton vs. Destruction Crew, AWA  
Sgt. Slaughter vs. Col. DeBeers, AWA  
Dick Murdoch vs. Bob Orton Jr., CLASH VI  
Junkyard Dog vs. Butch Reed, CLASH VI  
Dusty Rhodes vs. Steelman, PWF ("The Homecoming")  
Dino Bravo vs. Hercules, PRIME TIME  
Dingdongs vs. Cougar Jay/George South, CLASH VII  
Norman vs. Mike Justice, CLASH VII  
REVERSE CAGE MATCH, SCW (June)  
Commandos vs. George South/Trent Knight, WCW (December)  
Commandos vs. Star Riders, PWF ("The Homecoming")  
Warlord vs. Mark Ming, WWF (April)  
John Studd vs. Stoney Burke, WWF (May)  
Haku vs. Hillbilly Jim, PTW (May)  
Hulk Hogan vs. Bad News Brown, SNME  
Adrian Street vs. Terry Garvin, CWF  
Nasty Boys vs. Dennis Knight/Jumbo Baretta, PWF

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### WORST PPV MATCH OF THE YEAR

Jimmy Valiant vs. Wayne Bloom, SCIII  
Iceman Parsons vs. Brickhouse Brown, SCIII  
Robin Smith vs. Judy Martin, ROYAL RUMBLE  
Tommy Rich vs. Cuban Assassin, HALLOWEEN HAVOC  
Andre the Giant vs. Jake Roberts, WM5  
Dino Bravo vs. Ronnie Garvin, WM5  
Jim Duggan vs. Bad News Brown, WM5  
Dusty Rhodes vs. Honky Tonk Man, SS'89  
Hercules vs. Greg Valentine, SS'89

Terry Taylor vs. Bobby Heenan, WM5  
POWW Lingerie Battle Royal, SCIII

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### WORST NEW CHARACTERS

Zeus, WWF  
Cowboy Kevin Dillinger, CWF  
Commandos, NWA/PWF  
Bubble Gum Kid, PWF  
"Gator" Keirn, PWF  
Kokina Maximus, AWA  
Schoolboy Crush, SCW  
Dixie Dyn-O-Mite, CWF  
Dingdongs, NWA  
Widowmaker, WWF  
Dr. B.G. Holliday, Stampede  
Rick "The Model" Martel, WWF  
Z-Man, NWA  
Continental Cat, CWF

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### WORST SUPERCARD

WRESTLEMANIA V, WWF/PPV  
HALLOWEEN HAVOC, NWA/PPV  
SUPER CLASH III, AWA/PPV  
THE HOMECOMING, PWF  
WAR IN THE WINDY CITY, AWA/Sportschannel  
ROYAL RUMBLE, WWF/PPV

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### WORST WEEKLY TV SERIES (All Eligible)

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

### WORST PLAY-BY-PLAY ANNOUNCER

John Heath, PWF  
David Crockett, NWA (Dec.-Jan.)  
Ed Whalen, STAMPEDE  
Ben Masters, SCW  
Alan Starr, SCW  
Tim Dix, SCW  
Bill Mercer, TEXAS SUPERSTARS  
Gordon Solie, "The Homecoming"  
Oliver Humperdink, PWF  
Gene Ligon, ATLANTIC COAST

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### WORST COLOR COMMENTATOR

Sherri Martel, ROYAL RUMBLE  
Alan Starr, SCW  
Frank Dusek, WCCW/USWA  
Wahoo McDaniel, WCW  
Joe Blanchard, AWA  
Jonathan Holliday, CWF  
Magnum T.A., WCW  
Verne Gagne, SCIII/AWA  
Pete Montana, STAMPEDE  
Robert Fuller, CWA/CWF  
Downtown Bruno, CWF

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BALLOTING CONTINUES ON  
REVERSE SIDE

### WORST TV ANGLE OF THE YEAR

DUSTY/ANIMAL "Spike in the Eye," WCW  
FLAIR/PUNK, "Plastic Bag," CLASH VIII  
SCOTT STEINER parking lot attack by  
DOOM, WCW  
PERCY PRINGLE bloodbath, WCCW  
DUSTY RHODES "Americana" sketches  
SCOTT "Flash" NORTON armwrestling  
challenge, AWA  
TONI ADAMS attacked by DEVASTATION,  
USWA  
RONNIE GARVIN as referee, WWF  
DINO BRAVO/ULTIMATE WARRIOR strongman  
challenge, WWF  
DENNIS CONDREY wins CWF title & turns  
heel in cage match in same show, CWF  
LOSER-LEAVE-TOWN matches, WCCW  
TOMMY RICH/MR. DONNIE attack referee  
WOLFMAN, SCW  
BEAUTY & THE BEAST attacks on LINDA  
STREET, CWF  
HULK HOGAN atomic drops SHERRI MARTEL,  
SUMMER SLAM  
IVAN KOLOFF wrestles PAUL JONES with  
one hand tied behind back, NWA  
BILL FRANCIS wrestles SCOTTY THE BODY  
with one hand tied behind, PORTLAND  
Heel attack on RIP OLIVER's crippled  
brother, JERRY, PORTLAND

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### WORST TURN OF THE YEAR

Rick Martel, WWF  
Road Warriors return to babyface, NWA  
The Playboys, PWF  
David Sammartino (heel to face in 3  
weeks), SCW  
Al Perez to DEVASTATION, WCCW  
Jerry Stubbs, CWF  
Steve Williams return to babyface, NWA

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### DECLINING STAR(S) OF THE YEAR

BLUE BLAZER (Owen Hart), WWF/STAMPEDE  
Tom Prichard, CWF  
Honky Tonk Man, WWF  
Brad Armstrong, CWF/NWA/SCW  
Al Perez, PWF/USWA/WWF  
Ted DiBiase, WWF

Andre the Giant, WWF  
Mike Rotunda, NWA  
The Fantastics, NWA  
Bill Dundee, CWF/CWA  
Lance Russell, NWA  
Ronnie Garvin, WWF  
Eddie Gilbert, NWA  
Paul E. Dangerously, NWA  
Terry Taylor, WWF  
Kevin Von Erich, USWA

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### WORST MUSIC ON TV WRESTLING

KING HAKU/DUGGAN/SAVAGE entrance music  
"AMERICAN DREAM," Dusty's theme  
FLYIN' BRIAN drum theme  
Theme from AWA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING  
TERRY GARVIN (Beauty), "As Time Goes  
By," entrance music  
RUSSIAN ASSASSINS' entrance music  
(through February)  
VINCENT YOUNG's breakdance music

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### WORST IDEA OF THE YEAR

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING at  
7:05 p.m.  
Plastic bag angle on CLASH VIII  
Parking lot attack on SCOTT STEINER  
DUSTY RHODES sticking hand in  
toilet  
MASTER OF PAIN as "unified" world  
champion  
VINCENT YOUNG as a breakdancer  
ZEUS  
PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION  
in Florida  
"Spike in the Eye" angle, WCW  
GEORGE SCOTT as NWA booker  
GEORGE SCOTT failure to renew Jim  
Cornette's contract  
RIC FLAIR as NWA booker  
J-TEX CORPORATION, NWA  
HIRO MATSUDA as manager of RIC  
FLAIR/BARRY WINDHAM  
ERIC EMBRY "blinded," USWA  
WRESTLEMANIA V at casino again  
Repeated beating of women in  
angles, WWF/CWF

THE DINGDONGS, NWA  
MORTON DOWNEY JR. on PIPER'S PIT,  
WM5  
ROBIN SMITH singing "America the  
Beautiful" at WM5  
RUN DMC's "Wrestlemania Rap", WM5

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### WORST OVERALL TV PERSONALITY

ULTIMATE WARRIOR, WWF  
OLIVER HUMPERDINK, PWF/NWA  
RAY CANDY/COMMANDO RAY, NWA/PWF  
ROBERT GIBSON, Various  
ED WHALEN, STAMPEDE  
DAVID CROCKETT, NWA (Dec.-Feb.)  
JOE BLANCHARD, AWA  
VERNE GAGNE, AWA  
TIM DIX, SCW  
BEN MASTERS, SCW  
ALAN STARR, SCW  
ANDRE THE GIANT, WWF  
AL PEREZ, PWF/USWA  
FRANK DUSEK, WCCW  
JOHN HEATH, PWF  
IRON SHEIK, NWA  
RON SLINKER, PWF  
MR. DONNIE, SCW\*\*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* - Please add MR. DONNIE to list of  
nominees for WORST NEW CHARACTER on  
reverse side of ballot.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUR COMMENTS



## MATWATCH

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**THE ORGANIZER:** Following up on the Tully firing, Blanchard was not only dumped for nixing the job vs. Warrior but was accused of trying to organize a mass walkout of the WWF. Vince wanted him to be an example.

**VINCE IN GQ:** Vince McMahon was profiled in the current issue of GENTLEMAN'S QUARTERLY for an examination of pay-per-view. Vince was actually only quoted twice but he expressed dismay at oversaturation in the pay business, blasting the Frank Sinatra/Liza Minnelli/Sammy Davis Jr. and Robbie Knivel events as pay shows "not even worthy of NETWORK television."

**INJURED LIST:** Apparently, Ronnie Garvin was not seriously injured, if at all, after a match in Erie week before last. But Tim Horner and Bret Hart were still nursing injuries at last week's end.

**NWA HURTS:** On the Turner side, both Dynamic Dudes were still banged up, even though they were still working. Shane Douglas' elbow is still not responding well and Johnny Ace has been working with a broken nose for nearly three weeks.

**CLASH COUNTDOWN:** By the time you read this, CLASH IX may have been history. But the crowd in Troy should have been good as WCW was heavily papering RPI Fieldhouse.

**STAMPEDING MATCHES:** Canadian fans are really upset at TSN for editing out the Derringer Bros. attack on Bruce Hart, some claiming it was Ed Whalen's decision. But Owen Hart, who's predominantly been kept off Stampede TV, made three appearances on the Nov. 6 show.

**SLIDING DOWNWARD:** ROLLERGAMES is proving less and less formidable competition. Its Oct. 29 ratings slipped to a 3.0 nationally, its lowest numbers in four weeks and a sure sign that ROLLER is just not going to be the sustained craze its originators had hoped.

**ON VIDEO:** Titan won't wait long to release the SURVIVOR SERIES video. It will be available Dec. 15. We're told the STARRCADE: FUTURE SHOCK video will be out by Jan. 1.

**I FEEL GOOD:** With that FUTURE SHOCK subtitle on Dec. 13, TBS could dip back into its nostalgia. About 15 years ago, Godfather of Soul JAMES BROWN hosted a weekly series, JAMES BROWN'S FUTURE SHOCK on then WTCG. Near the end of the show, the dancers would line up and chant, "Future Shock! Can't be stopped!" over and over. James would sweat, as usual, then sign off singing, "I Feel Good." Maybe TBS could bail him out for an intermission encore.

**LANIGAN'S LAMENT:** Our friend John Lanigan will be ring announcer for a big show Friday night in Highland Heights, Ohio, with PAUL ORNDORFF returning to the ring against KERRY VON ERICH in the topline. THE KILLER BEES will face BUDDY LANDELL and AWA champion LARRY ZBYSZKO and KIMALA goes against JERRY LAWLER. ICEMAN PARSONS will meet MANNY PERMANDEZ, LORD ZOLTON faces SAM HOUSTON and ROBIN SMITH goes against MOOLAH. And in what's sure to be the spinetingler

## COMINGS & GOINGS

of the evening, Paul Jones will take on Ivan Koloff in a long-awaited rematch of their CLASH IV thriller in which Ivan had a hand tied behind his back.

**TONI TRAVAILS:** It's getting to be almost a weekly occurrence to report on another "man-beats-woman" angle. Toni Adams, Chris' wife, is being jumped now about as much as Linda Street was in CWF. Upcoming on USWA syndication, Toni gets pummeled by Billy Joe Fravis in another tasteless bit. KTVT in Dallas had to censor it as the heels raised Toni's dress and beat her allegedly bare behind. Enough's enough, guys.

**DUTCH MARKET:** Dutch Mantel has been handed the reins of booking for CWA for a reported 90 days to see if he can get it cranked up. Again, talk is spreading that this is the last straw. Dutch is bringing in new names such as The Violator and the New York Brawler but it probably won't help.

**TWIN TITLES:** Speaking of CWA...once again, the Jarrett organization recognizes a World Champion of Memphis and World Champion of Dallas with the Soultaker/Jerry Lawler respective split. It makes the so-called "unified" title more ludicrous than the mockery Verne Gagne made last year of the AWA belt when he stripped Lawler.

**ALL-STAR ALLEY:** The most recent GEORGIA ALL-STAR taping didn't draw well, in part, because the locale was announced as Math Field. Being on a cold night, a lot of fans assumed that was a baseball field in Griffin, Ga., and only about 50 turned out.

**JERRY'S KIDS:** Of course, that topped the 18 who showed up for Jerry Blackwell's show Nov. 5 at the Alpharetta Auction Barn. Most of the GA. ALL-STAR guys worked the show for the former SCW guru because he was promising (and paid) \$40 guarantees and the fellows needed the money.

**I'LL BE THERE:** In answer to a number of inquiries, yes, I'll be attending STARRCADE Dec. 13 at the Omni. It's only an hour and 40 minute drive for me and I hope to meet a lot of MATWATCHers personally.

## RATINGS RAP

### SYNDICATION

Week Ending Oct. 29	Rating	Stations	Pct. U.S.
WWF	8.4	242	96%
NWA	6.5	165	91%

(ANALYSIS: WWF showing a slight increase in the buildup for SURVIVOR SERIES, plus with cooler weather, more people are staying inside and watching the tube. NWA, picking up 21 markets since its low of July, has hovered more in the 5s and 6s of late, which is somewhat amazing, considering the lack of zip to the weekly shows. CABLE RATINGS on Page 8.)

# MATWATCH

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Vol. 2, No. 21/Nov. 13-19

## RATINGS RAP

(Continued from Page 7)

### CABLE

Week Ending Nov. 6	RATING	SHARE	HOMES
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 11/6)	3.1	4.5	1.5 mil.
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 11/4)	2.9	5.7	1.47 mil.
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 11/5)	2.7	4.7	1.37 mil.
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 11/5)	2.2	5.5	1.07 mil.
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 11/3)	1.7	3.1	862,000
NWA POWER HOUR (R) (TBS 11/4)	1.0	6.4	507,000

(ANALYSIS: PRIME TIME posted its best numbers since August with the Demolition-Tully & Arn title switch and a relatively good Curt Hennig-Bret Hart match but mostly carried by the Piper-Heenan byplay. WCW, the major ratings story of the week, posted its top numbers since mid-December 1988 with a nothing show. In fact, the 6:30-7:15 p.m. period averaged a 3.2/6.2, incredible numbers considering the Ranger Ross-Cuban Assassin "main event." MAIN EVENT fell back from its near-record of the week before but still scored 4% over its October average. POWER HOUR and ALL-AMERICAN both suffered sharp drops but the 7:05 a.m. PH replay tied its all-time high.)

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ONE YEAR AGO  
IN MATWATCH...

---MATWATCH endorses Ric Flair as NWA booker in first editorial.

---WWF outpoints NWA in syndicated ratings, 9.2 to 5.2.

---Tim Horner jumps to WWF. The Road Warriors balk at Paul Ellering being left off several road shows. J.J. Dillon also leaves Paul E. Dangerously and Jim Cornette off several road dates.

---Jerry Blackwell shuts down SCW for 45 dates except for TV tapings.

---Paul E. tells Corny: "Dennis carried you for 5 long years and last week, Bobby & Stan carried you to the paramedic stand."

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